Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 04179 050743Z

21
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-10 /108 W
---------- 013855
R 041450Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8294
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 4179

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SW, CSCE
SUBJECT: SWEDISH PRESS AND GOVERNMENT COMMENTS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT

1. SUMMARY. THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT PROVIDED THE OCCASION FOR SWEDISH PRESS AND GOVERNMENT COMMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT THUS FAR. COMMENT CENTERED ON BASKET III ISSUES AND WAS GENERALLY CRITICAL OF THE EAST, THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT STRUCK A CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC NOTE IN ITS STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY, IN A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, STATED THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE SIGNING OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT TO HAVE BEEN "AN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 04179 050743Z

IMPORTANT EVENT FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION." A SPOKESMAN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY ANYTHING DEFINITE ABOUT THE RESULTS, BUT THAT SOME CONCRETE PROGRESS COULD BE SEEN IN THE INVITATION OF A SWEDISH OBSERVER TO A LARGE SOVIET MILITARY MANEUVER, AND IN THE FACT THAT SWEDISH JOURNALISTS NOW HAVE, IN THE MFA'S OPINION, BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE USSR AND HAVE GREATER POSSIBILITIES TO TRAVEL.

3. THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT IT WAS ALSO TOO EARLY TO GIVE A DEFINITE ANALYSIS OF THE GENERAL TREND IN FAMILY REUNION PROBLEMS, "BUT WE CAN AT LEAST SAY THAT THE SITUATION HAS NOT BECOME WORSE..THE FINAL DOCUMENT DIDN'T GUARANTEE THAT ALL REUNION CASES WOULD BE SOLVED RIGHT AWAY."

4. SWEDISH PRESS COMMENT ON THE ANNIVERSARY WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE CRITICAL OF EASTERN RESPONSIVENESS. ARBETET, GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE THE VOICE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, COMMENTS JULY 31, AFTER DESCRIBING A SPECIFIC CASE OF REFUSAL OF ENTRY INTO THE USSR, THAT THE SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR ERUOPEAN SECURITY AND EUROPEAN COOPERATION "DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE PROPERLY SUCCEEDED IN CAUSING ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT" TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

5. SVENSKA DAGBLADET: (MODERATE/CONSERVATIVE: MAJOR STOCKHOLM DAILY) POINTS OUT IN AN EDITIORIAL THE SAME DAY THAT TH SOVIETS CHOSE TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY BY THREATENING TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OLYMPIC GAMES UNLESS THE CANADIANS RETURNED A DEFECTOR. "BUT ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO GO TO MONTREAL TO FIND CASES OF PROVOCATIVE BREACHES OF THE HELSINKI SPIRIT. THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN LONG AND TRYING FOR THOSE SEPARATED FAMILIESS WHO BELIEVED THAT THE COMMUNIST HEADS OF STATE ACTUALLY MEANT WHAT THEY SIGNED AT CSCE." THE PAPER CALLS ON THE WEST TO REMAIN FIRM AND TO CENSURE EVERY NEW ACT OF "INIGUITY."

6. DAGEN'S NYHETER (INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL) ALSO NOTES THAT THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES PROMISED IN HELSINKI
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TO DEAL IN A "POSITIVE AND HIMANITARIAN SPIRIT" WITH APPLICATIONS FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION. THE PAPER TERMS IT "OUTRAGEOUS" THAT CERTAIN CASES OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION BETWEEN THE EAST BLOC AND SWEDEN HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLOVED.
SMITH

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